

I want to begin by stating I am embarrassed of the lack of animal welfare regulations in Canada, its shameful! The horse meat trade and now the federal ag gag bill C-205. Because our government does not regulate or monitor animal welfare on farms who is supposed to? Obviously, the only way is to set up hidden camera footage, work undercover in animal agriculture settings, employees coming forward and activists. Without them many animals would still be suffering. This bill will ensure that there is no protection now for animals. How are their lives any different then the pets you have at home? They feel pain, sadness, and fear no different then our pets or humans.

This dangerous law is pushed by the powerful farm lobby to silence whistleblowers and conceal animal cruelty from the public. We are hopeful the court will strike down this troubling ag gag law and make it clear that Ontario and other provinces cannot interfere with Charter rights to protect the profits of the meat industry.

These laws interfere with the right to gather information on matters of animal abuse and to protest peacefully on public property. The ag gag law infringes on the rights of journalists, advocates, and researchers who engage in these important activities, but it also violates the public's right to know how animals are treated on farms/factory farms.

The investigations by undercover citizens and concerned employees at farms and slaughterhouses has led to animal cruelty convictions and has revealed shocking animal suffering in Ontario, including workers kicking, punching, and beating animals; animals crammed into tiny cages; botched euthanasia and improper slaughter; filthy conditions; and workplace safety concerns.

For both the transportation and slaughter of animals, Canada's regulations are weak, but just as serious is the lack of enforcement of the existing regulations. It is clear that funding to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for animal welfare enforcement must be substantially increased to ensure federal regulations are being enforced consistently and effectively.

Farming, transport and slaughter practices in Canada have fallen further and further behind other jurisdictions, such as Australia, New Zealand and the European Union, where public demand for progressive policies and legislation for farm animal welfare has pushed these governments to implement progressive change for animals.

Please step up Canada and follow suit with the other countries and make stronger animal protection laws for our farm animals and the transport of the animals.